

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
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July 21, 2020

Department of Parks and Recreation Budget Restoration

County Parks has played a key role in providing supportive services during COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to providing lunch and snack programs for youth, cooling centers, homeless shelters and many other essential services for our vulnerable populations, County Parks have been the backyards of many community members who have utilized County Parks as sanctuaries for physical and emotional well-being.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, the Department of Parks and Recreation's (Department) Operating Budget suffered a 14% curtailment or \$23 million. The Department's Budget was reduced by \$13 million to meet the County budget deficit of \$935 million, in addition to the Department's revenue loss of \$10 million. In order to achieve the curtailment, the Department's reduction included maintenance, recreation leaders and lifeguards among other staff and services and supplies for parks and restroom maintenance, pool aquatics and staffing for summer lunch and snack programs.

These cuts present critical unmet needs in light of the Covid-19 crisis. Many vulnerable children and families visit County parks for respite. It is critical that parks, park amenities and restrooms are properly cleaned, disinfected and maintained to keep them

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safe and clean for the public. In addition, COVID-19 requires a higher level of maintenance and protective personal equipment for the health and safety of staff and park visitors.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to report back during the Supplemental Budget phase to determine the availability of ongoing funding for maintenance of park amenities and restrooms, pool aquatics and providing lunch and snack programs for youth.

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